Community Vision

Lesbian Transgender Gay Bisexual

In the Spotlight: Jewish "Family" Review
Gays and Politics in Colorado Springs
Gay/Straight Alliances
State of the PPGLCC

March/April 2003 - Volume XXV: Number 2

Community Vision
"GLBT Voices of Colorado Springs"

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Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center

The mission of the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center (PPGLCC), a 501c3 organization, is to create a sense of community among lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender people and the community-at-large.

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GET OUT THE VOTE: GAYS AND POLITICS IN COLORADO SPRINGS

PPGLCC
Due to the impending City Council election, politics related to our community are heated once again. The Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center does not endorse any candidates, and the views expressed herein are expressly those of the author. However, we do encourage you to participate in the democratic process. VOTE!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

From nearly a $20,000 debt, moving, the fire and disastrous bookkeeping systems, the Pride Center has operated in crisis mode for what seems like an eternity. But with the dedication of our board, the work of our volunteers and the support of our community, that era is finally coming to an end. We are learning a new word at the Pride Center: Stability. With stability comes the opportunity to focus on our vision, and that is just what we have done.

Some may call it revolutionary, some may say, "well duh", but the Center has a clear direction heading into the future. We have redefined our philosophy with new clarity, and it is this: Our role is to empower the community to meet its own needs, and to provide a means in which they can do so.

You see, for a long time the Center tried to decide what the community needed. We would say, "There needs to be a men's group and women's group and a group for people who like to wear polk-a-dots." But the truth is, that is not our role. The Center was established so that the community can say, "We would like to do this, or we need this", and the Center says, "Here is how we can help you be successful."

Our philosophy is already coming into play this month as we begin to sponsor FUSION, the men's activities group formerly ran through S-CAP. We won't be telling these guys how to run their program, only how we can help them be successful at it themselves. Through the Center they will have access to Community Vision, LunchBreak, www.ppglcc.org, and any advertising the Center does. But it will be FUSION meeting the needs of the constituents they serve.

We also put this philosophy into play with the structure of the PrideFest committee. The Center enacted a policy specifically requesting that representatives from community organizations and the community-at-large be involved in making decisions like the PrideFest's theme and vendor prices.

And we will not stop there. Open door policy, people. If you would like to run a program, if you have an existing group you would like the PPGLCC to sponsor, then email us, call us, come to your Pride Center and see us. And in the next few months we will be sending out a survey so that you, the community, the actual leaders of the PPGLCC, will be able to tell us what you want from the Center. We are truly a community center of the community, by the community and for the community.

ryan@ppglcc.org

GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCES - A LEADER HAS EMERGED

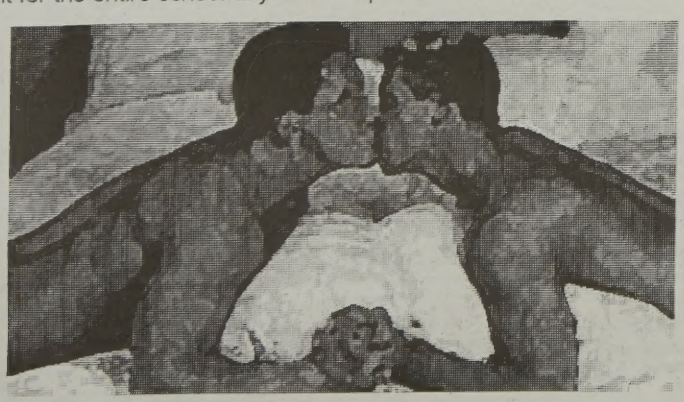
-Samantha LeBlanc/Morgan Weinert/GLSEN-

Her name is Morgan Weinert, and she is a 16 year old sophomore at Lewis-Palmer High School. You may not know her yet, but after reading this you'll want to.

Morgan founded the first Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) at Lewis Palmer High School, and this year they will be hosting the national student led Day of Silence Project on April 9th 2003. Students participating will remain silent for the entire school day and pass out "speaking cards" explaining why; They are representing the thousands of GLBT students kept silent every day from fear of harassment or worse. On the night of April 9th at 5pm, the GSA will host the "Night of Noise" complete with information tables and guest speakers. More info on April 9th's events? Contact: Lewis Palmer GSA - LPHSGSA@hotmail.com.

And there's more. Morgan is also a representative of Colorado's Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). She will be featured at the 5th Annual Leadership Conference "Life Without Labels: I AM ME" on April 16th. This regional conference for GLBTQ students and their supportive allies will provide the chance to learn how to begin GSA's and to improve existing programs. For more info on attending this conference, please contact: Tracy Phariss at Golden High School: (303) 982-4219 conference@glsenco.org.

The work mentioned above is not only impressive, it is extremely important to the GLBT movement in the Pikes Peak Region. At 16, Morgan Weinert is already proving to be a strong leader in our community and across the nation. Any people interested in learning about starting a Gay/Straight Alliance at their school can contact Morgan at LPHSGSA@hotmail.com, or contact GLSEN: www.glsenco.org.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CITY COUNCIL-CONCERNED GLBT CITIZEN
Raul Gonzales

Focus on the Family held a Candidates Forum for City Council candidates, and candidates were asked about their stance on the same-sex domestic partner benefits issue. Only five attending candidates took a stand supporting the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender folks in our city.

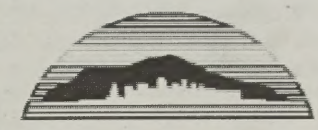
Richard Stetler (at large)
Richard Skorman (at large)
Lauren Arnest (D3)
Tim Oliver (D1)
Mark Entrekin (at large)

I have worked side by side with Ted Eastburn since I have moved to CS. I got to bend his ear almost daily during the domestic benefits issue. I can attest that Ted made up his mind before I ever got to him. He talked with me about the issue every time we saw each other at work, and not once did he waver in his intention to vote positively for the issue. He was under a tremendous amount of pressure to change his vote and as we all now know, he didn't! Once he decided to run for mayor we talked about his support base and he has told me he wants the GLBT support. I have thought about having a fundraiser for him, and inviting those in the community to attend. He told me he would be there to answer question and concerns. I don't want to hit the same crowd twice, so I will see if that ends up being scheduled. We have a tremendous opportunity to make a block of voters count in this election. There are so many candidates, that overwhelming support for one of them from the GLBT community could help decide the vote. That would be **empowerment**! Thanks for your time.

PEDO IS A NO, NO!
Lorenzo Cardenas

I recently came across a young boy, 18 years of age, who somehow befriended me and told me about his relationship with a 38 year old man. This 38 year old man apparently has also befriended other male minors as young as 13 years of age, and usually lures them into becoming his friend by buying gifts for them, or even co-signing for a car. To me that is down right sickening, dirty and PEDO (Pedophile). You have to understand, don't blame the young ones. Being young and gay we often look for someone to look up to, especially to help us in the coming out process. We look for advice from others who have already gone through it, so we find someone to take us under their wing. Sometimes you come across these PEDO's, and I continue to use this name for those kind of people. You know who you are, who abuse this kind of situation and use it to your advantage. I just want you to know, for all you PEDO's out there, I'm watching you. It's not okay and the gay community is not a safe haven for you. And now that I've outed your little sick game, we are all watching you!

Community Vision would like to hear from you!
Share your opinions with the community! Write a letter to the editor. Either e-mail or mail a letter to the Pride Center stating your opinion. Please keep letters to a 500 word maximum.



Are You or Someone You Know a Victim of Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence is NOT just a "straight" issue!

Do you know a gay, lesbian, trans, bi (or straight) individual who might be in an abusive relationship? Do you know how to recognize the warning signs of a domestic violence, and how and where to get help?

On Thursday, March 13th, at 6:00 P.M., there will be a presentation at the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center on Domestic Violence for the GLBT Community. Ginny Oman (Mills) is a lesbian licensed mental health therapist who works at the Center for the Prevention of Domestic Violence in the Colorado Springs (T.E.S.S.A.). She will be giving a free presentation for the GLBT Community on domestic violence and abusive relationships. Come and learn about this important issue!

Topics Include:
The warning signs of domestic violence.
How to know if a relationship is abusive or not.
The rate of domestic violence in the GLBT community.
How a GLBT individual can get help in Colorado Springs.

WE ALL KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP.

Come and learn how you can help them.

If someone you know is concerned that they might be an offender, or a victim of abuse, come to PPGLCC for this important presentation. For further information, call 471-4429.

The Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center is located at 716 1/2 North Tejon Street in downtown Colorado Springs.
www.ppglcc.org

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH LUNCHBREAK

-Sally Hall-

Ever wonder what's going on around town?

Interested in staying informed via email?

We have some exciting news! There is a local email newsletter called LunchBreak which is put together for the community by the community. It's BIG!

The newsletter operates like this -
There are several categories: women's events are under Lesbian News, men's events are under Men's News, anything related to both are under GLBT News, any entertainment is under Entertainment News, and under Hot Topics you can find web links from community members, for rent/sale, people looking for..., updates, etc.

Emails are sent several times per week based on schedule. You will usually find a table of contents so you know what the email is about. Please be patient if we have to send out more emails per weeks than average; It just means we have a lot going on and that is a GREAT aspect of our community, not negative. Also, the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center website has the information you need if you lose something. Go to www.ppglcc.org and click the LunchBreak link, or go directly to www.ppglcc.org/lunchbreak/index.shtml.

How do you begin receiving these emails?
Go to www.ppglcc.org and click on "Join the E-List". If you do not have the internet, but you can access email, then email sally.hall@raymondjames.com. She will include you in the next emailing. ENJOY!!!

The PPGLCC wishes to extend our gratitude to Sally Hall for her hard work on the LunchBreak. Thanks Sally!!!

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

SHOULD THE GLBT COMMUNITY GET RID OF "ALPHABET SOUP" AND SIMPLY IDENTIFY AS "QUEER"?

SEND US YOUR COMMENTS

JEWISH FAMILIES: A HYPOCRISY?

-Samantha LeBlanc-

There is little, if any justification to support the ongoing battle of family values in the Jewish Community. Are gays fit to raise a family? It is sad that so many people have been left out of the synagogues because of their sexual orientation.

Gay people who establish committed relationships and make families seem to be a deeper threat to Jewish family values than anyone else. The Jewish faith would rather see no family than a non-traditional one. The image of a non-traditional family has become one of the most successful tools used against gays. That image is simple; Gay people and their relationships pose a real threat to the "normal" family.

With the family at risk, many Jewish liberals can be counted on to join the opposition to gay rights in America and within the Jewish community. There is a Jewish standing that non-procreative sex would tend to drive procreative sex out of the social system. Thus implying that the acceptance of homosexual commitments endangers heterosexual commitments. Ridiculous, I know. The desire to become a parent and have a family recognizes no distinction based on sexual orientation. Gays and lesbians, I have no doubt, would make excellent parents because their children are planned for and truly wanted.

If the Jewish community were truly family oriented, gay couples would be offered services to aid them in family making. They offer services to sterile heterosexuals couples. Why not do the same for gays? A lot of people don't realize the pain gays experience in the exclusion of what could be the most incredible moment in life. Childbirth. And despite these physical and social barriers, gay couples to day have found ways to create families.

Gay and lesbian families signal a return of a greater understanding of family which enhances the family's most important lesson: Love. This runs parallel with the Jewish teachings of how to live a positive, healthy lifestyle in which we learn to love ourselves and others.

We all need to unite and lend each other a hand in faith and family. Our faith, or what we choose to believe in, ,can provided us with comfort and strength. So can family. We learn what we've been taught ,and need to start teaching the important, everlasting family values.

● Desserts ● Overstuffed Sandwiches ●

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LGBT COMMUNITY AWARDS

-PPGLCC-

For the last three years the PPGLCC has recognized the hard working and dedicated leaders in our community with our Annual Awards Dinner. This year's awards were given in the following categories: Thomas G. Martin Leadership Award, LGBT Business of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Ally of the Year.

The Thomas G. Martin Leadership Award went to David Sellon for his years of commitment to the progression of LGBT equal rights in Colorado Springs. Even as you read this, David is heading up Springs Together to ensure that the newly acquired benefits for same-sex partners of city employees remain. Carolyn Cathey received the Business of the Year Award for her outstanding business leadership. Her partnership with our community has been simply inspirational. In January, we were proud to celebrate Jack Beal's decade of service to the Adopt-A-Highway Program on behalf of the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center. His volunteer efforts have gone above and beyond any call of duty, and for this he received the Volunteer of the Year Award. And by no means least, we were proud to present City Council's Richard Skorman as our Ally of the Year.

All of these people have poured their time, efforts and hearts into creating a better community for LGBT folks in Colorado Springs. Our appreciation cannot be expressed enough.

The Annual Community Awards Dinner is held each February, and has been supported by Ian Gibson-Smith from the IanThom Foundation. If you know of someone who should be recognized for their efforts, contact the PPGLCC with your nominations throughout the year.

SAVE THE DATE-PRIDE 2003-BOUND BY PRIDE JUNE 29th

Good News...Ways To Save On Your Tax Bill...Charitable Donations Can Lower Tax Bills; Simple Steps Can Help

WASHINGTON (excerpt)-In 1999, the last year for which complete data is available, about 35.5 million taxpayers made deductible charitable contributions totaling nearly $125.8 billion. Of these gifts, nearly $88.3 billion were cash donations.

Donations of stock or other property are usually valued at the fair market value of the property. For stocks and bonds with an active market, the fair market value is the average price between highest and lowest selling price on the valuation date.

The IRS also reminds taxpayers to keep appropriate records to substantiate the value of their gifts. For example, for any single gift of $250 or more, a taxpayer must have a written acknowledgement from the charity by the earlier of the date the person files the tax return or the filing deadline, including extensions. A person donating property valued at more than $5,000 must obtain a qualified written appraisal.

Taxpayers can find help regarding the donations they make in Publication 526, Charitable Contributions. A second reference, Publication 561, Determining the Value of Donated Property, answers many of the questions that that donors have when they make noncash contributions and can be found at http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p526.pdf and http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p561.pdf respectively.

OUR WISH LIST

Need more information so YOU can reduce your tax bill for 2003. We would love to talk with you about donating to a needy [501(c)(3)] organization. Please do call us at 471-4429.

Our wish List for items is as follows:
a. Cash Donations are very needed in order to continue monthly operations, from rent of $500 to this mailing to the weekly/monthly programs we offer
b. Matching bookcases for our library
c. Laser printer capable of printing 11x17 pages
d. 2 picnic tables with benches for outside the Pride Center

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ADDRESS _____
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VISA/MC _____ EXP DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

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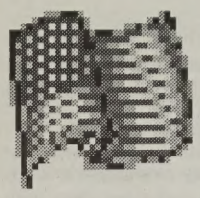
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

PPGLCC Membership

- ☐ $10
- ☐ $25
- ☐ $50
- ☐ $75
- ☐ $100
- ☐ Other Amount _____



This Election Could Take Away Health Benefits For Same-Sex Partners Of City Employees!!!

Your Vote WILL Make A Difference

Springs Together, A Collaboration Of GLBTA Organizations And Community Members, Is Strategically Working To Oppose Efforts To Fill City Council With Anti-Gay Philosophies.

There Are Candidates To Vote For Who Will Not Overturn The Benefits.

Know The Candidates! VOTE!

For Candidate Information Or
To Volunteer For Springs Together,
Contact:
Voters Network: (719) 471-8824

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LOVE MATTERS

relationship tip of the month

exercise your sense of humor often

COLORADO SPRINGS HAS PINK PAGES WE CALL IT NETCORE

-Tommie Klise-

In the early 1990's, a list of GLBT and gay friendly businesses was compiled for anyone looking for such a business. The list was put together most specifically for newcomers to the area and was oh-so-appropriately called the "Rainbow Wagon" – a take off on the "Welcome Wagon". One would simply call the Community Center and ask for information on a community supportive business. In the late 1990's, thanks to the hard work and insight of people like Carolyn Cathey, Tom Halfast and Jerry Wayne Morris, the Rainbow Wagon became NetCoRe – Network Community Resource. Recognizing the need for much more than just a list of businesses, the founders of NetCoRe created monthly mixers for small business owners and independent business professionals to get together and network with one another. In addition to networking for business support, NetCoRe also became a forum for community activities and resources as well as a forum for political issues which specifically affect our community.

The purpose of NetCoRe is to be a social network for community business owners, leaders, community supportive businesses and the community-at-large. We like to think of NetCoRe is our one-stop shopping and support resource for just about anything we need or want from our community.

Who can use NetCoRe? Anyone and everyone. The purpose of having a network of GLBT and gay friendly businesses is to help support and promote businesses, business owners and independent professionals who are a part of and/or support our community.

How do I find NetCoRe Businesses? Call the Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center at 719.471.4GAY (4429).A new NetCoRe Directory will be published in the next couple of months. NetCoRe also holds a monthly mixer. These mixers are generally hosted by a business owner or independent business professional at their place of business. NetCoRe mixers are open to anyone and everyone who wants to find out who's out there in our community providing services and products we all need and use. You do not have to be a business owner or independent business professional to be a part of NetCoRe. Drop in to one of these mixers and be very pleasantly surprised to find out just how many GLBT and gay-friendly businesses are "out there". Get the latest on community issues and activities. Find out what's happening on the political scene affecting our lives.

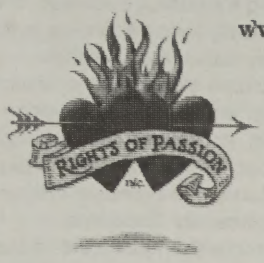
A list of monthly NetCoRe mixer dates and locations is as follows:

January 9th	Kelly Wood	Stading and Wood Chiropractic
February 13th	Sally Seidlitz	Accent Photo
March 13th	Sally Hall	Raymond James Financial Services, Inc
April 10th	Elaine Harris	McGinnis GMAC Real Estate
May 15th	Inside/Out	NOTE: This is the **3rd Thursday**
June 12th	PPGLCC	Pride Center
July 10th	Shean Belle	Century 21 Home Team
August 14th	Joanie Sharon	WSI Internet Consulting & Education
September 11th	Colleen Gilligan	Rights of Passion, Inc
October 9th	Cindy LopezBijou	Bar & Grill
November 13th	**Still Available For You To Sign Up!!!**	
December 11th	**Still Available For You To Sign Up!!!**	

A $5.00 donation at the mixers is welcomed. This small donation helps offset the cost of hosting the mixer as well as publishing the NetCoRe directory.

NETWORK COMMUNITY RESOURCE

www.RightsofPassion.com



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A SPECIAL DAY EVERYDAY - KEEPING THE FLAMES LIT

-Colleen Gilligan-

Valentine's Day...ahh...a time for romance...a time for love. It's a time to share your heart with someone who brings joy to your life. It's all so beautiful when you can spend the day experiencing this incredible thing called LOVE.

But what about the days that follow? Do you find that you've got the "after Valentine's Day blues"? How do you get through these feelings? How do you keep love and romance an integral part of **EVERYDAY**?!? What is it that makes Valentine's Day so special? Why do we place such emphasis on **one day** to share our feelings with our lover? Why do we not express this **everyday**?

It's important to look at the reasons why you chose this love, and this person to share your days with: their smile, their beauty, intellect, their compassion, cuteness, their interests being the same as yours, their desires and aspirations in life, the way they snore next to you <smiles> ?

If you found that your days were filled with thoughts of them and your nights filled with dreams of them...
If you found that your heart jumped when they touched you, or your stomach dropped when their lips touched your skin...
If you found that you wanted the phone to ring just to hear their voice...
If you found that you wanted to share fun times together...to watch the sun rise and set...
to hear the waves against the shore...to taste the sweetness of mangos, chocolates and fine wine...

Longing to be held, to be loved, to feel that you never want to lose these incredible feelings of love...then you don't have to....

Make everyday Valentine's Day. Life itself can make our days with one another challenging, but the difficulties in life are only stepping stones to who we become at the end of our journey. And at the end of my journey I want to know that the one I love and cherish is still standing there beside me as the sun sets.

Love with passion. It's makes life worth living. Make love with life. You only get one opportunity. And with that opportunity, love the one who brings you love.

There are many ways to keep the flames of romance burning long after Valentine's Day is over. If you'd like a few creative ideas or if you'd like to know what types of products are available to enhance any sensual or sexual moment, please see us at www.RightsOfPassion.com. We'd love to share our passion for love and life with you.

Colleen is co-owner of Rights of Passion, Inc. She and her partner created this business because of their desires to enhance other's lives by showing them how to feel free to explore all aspects of their sexuality. She writes with compassion for those who haven't yet found the joy and beauty in finding the freedom to be truly sexually stimulated. She writes with passion for those who have found their special love and for those who want to keep the flames of romance burning for eternity.

ALL SOULS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

-Wayne King-

I was raised in a fundamentalist Baptist church. When, at the age of 17 I realized that my church would deny the validity of my loving feelings for another man, I abandoned this church and for many years I had nothing to do with any religion and instead focused my attention on activism – civil rights, anti-war, and, after Stonewall, the gay movement. A few years ago, feeling a need to pay attention to the spiritual sense that I'd always had, I was moved to attend All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. I was attracted by their reputation for a liberal theology and support of BGLT rights.

I did, indeed, find a church which, as the plaque near the entrance states, the presence of bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people is "welcomed and celebrated." I also found a church based on a set of principles but without dogma – where each person is encouraged to explore her or his own spiritual journey, where inspiration and meaning can be drawn from many traditions – Christianity, Paganism, Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, Humanism and many others.

Finding a spiritual home can be difficult for any gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person especially in Colorado Springs. Fortunately, there are a number of options. *Community Vision* will be highlighting a different one each issue. I recommend All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church and High Plains Church Unitarian Universalist to anyone seeking a church which encourages you to find your own spiritual path. Both have been certified as Welcoming Congregations by the Office of BGLT Concerns of the Unitarian Unversalist Assocation.

On Sunday March 16th, the Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center will be the beneficiary of the monthly Outreach Sunday at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. A PPGLCC board member will be making a brief presentation of the services the Pride Center and half the Sunday collection will go to our organization. The service begins at 10:30am. The church is located at 730 N. Tejon St (Dale & Tejon).

COMMUNITY MEMBER RUNS FOR COUNCIL

-Linda Rinehart-

The Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center does not endorse this, or any other candidate for any political office.

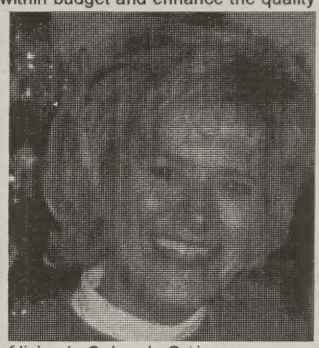
With a multi-tiered platform, Linda C. Rinehart entered the race for District 3 City Council seat on Tuesday, February 5. The city District 3 includes Colorado Springs' Westside and the southwest section of Colorado Springs.

Rinehart, 43, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Quincy University, Quincy, IL, is a retired business leader and an avid Pikes Peak Region Community Service volunteer, public speaker and writer. She is retired from Caterpillar Inc., a Fortune 100 company. Her business qualifications include Strategic Business Planning and Consulting, Participative Management and People Involvement, Project Management, Process Improvement Coordination, Organizational Management, Corporate and International Finance and Treasury, Marketing, Supplier Financial Relations, Information Services Consulting, International and Export Credit and Collection Policy and Administration, Employee Training and Development, Human Resources and Corporate Finance Recruiting, Interviewing and Hiring. She has also been trained in Dale Carnegie Leadership while working for Caterpillar Inc.

Rinehart believes she is a candidate for City Council who understands the appropriate role of government. Her degree coursework includes studies in Public Administration, and she worked in U.S. Civil Service jobs while in college to help fund her college education. Her strong, well-developed business background, practical experience and broad Community Service volunteer work in Colorado Springs over the last eight years will enable her to strengthen the strategic, long-term and citizen-inclusiveness perspective needed at the City Council level. Because she is retired from Caterpillar, Rinehart is able to devote much of her time and energy to City Council responsibilities.

As a City Councilmember, Linda says she has the following top priorities:

1) Revitalize the city-wide economy; revive our tourism industry, pursue the possibility of a downtown Convention Center, and find new and creative ways to attract and keep new businesses.
2) Retain existing businesses to save jobs and protect city revenues.
3) Return city government to operating within budget and enhance the quality



of living in Colorado Springs.
4) Protect and increase our precious natural resources. Develop and support equitable conservation measures.
5) Promote and lead the way for infrastructural and public transit improvements.

Other priorities include:

1) Youth Development and Leadership Programs
2) Support for social programs and activities for our growing population of senior citizens
3) Create more economic self-reliance for the local economy
4) Do more with less government intervention and intrusiveness
5) Respect citizens' personal liberties and their property rights
6) Emphasize public safety through support to police, fire and emergency services
7) Work closely with City Planning to ensure the city can support growth and address planning concerns and/or issues in a timely manner
8) Enhance and foster better communication, collaboration and synergy between citizens, businesses and government.

Rinehart supports the extension of health benefits to domestic partners of city employees in committed same-sex partnerships. She stands by City Manager Lorne Kramer's recommendation as the "right thing to do" and resulting City Council approval. She believes that decision should stand and NOT be reversed by the incoming city council. From a fiscal standpoint, Rinehart points out that the cost of these benefits is only .03% of the city budget, a minimal amount compared to other areas of the budget where spending has gone rampant. "The domestic partner benefits is an issue, but it has been blown out of proportion by right-wing interest groups and the media," Rinehart says.

Since relocating to Colorado Springs in 1995 from Illinois, Rinehart's volunteer work includes the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center, Pride Fest, the Womyn's Pride Book Group, the Womyn's Weekend Golf League, Community Partnership for Child Development, Colorado Springs Police Dept., Fountain Valley Senior Citizens Center,. Silver Key Senior Services, El Paso County District Attorney's Office, SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives), Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Catholic Charities ESL Tutoring Program, Marion House Soup Kitchen, *El Paso County Citizens Capital* Improvement Committee, the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, Smokebrush Theatre, SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) and Memorial Hospital. She has been a supporter of the PPGLCC, most recently as a sponsor of the PPGLCC's annual awards dinner. Linda is also an active member of Toastmasters International, an organization promoting the enhancement of public speaking and leadership skills. She serves as Vice-President of Public Relations for her local chapter.

Linda's interests include golf, golf and more golf, tennis, working out at the Y, public speaking, writing, reading, downhill skiing, hiking and biking, culinary arts and entertaining in her home, the fine arts and cultural activities, volunteer work-especially with youth and senior citizens, government, positive social change advocacy, personal and professional development coaching, studying and speaking Spanish and French languages and spending time with her family and friends. She is a member of the Pikes Peak Women Golfers Golf League and the Downtown YMCA.

Most of Linda's family resides in the metropolitan Colorado Springs area: her parents and two brothers and two sisters and their respective families. Another sister and brother and their families reside in the metropolitan St. Louis area. Another sister and her family live in Alexandria, VA. Linda is the proud aunt of 17 nieces and nephews and 3 great nieces.

She is an Accredited Business Counselor with SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives), and she teaches classes in Public Relations for Toastmasters International.

Linda is a member of Sacred Heart *Catholic Church and also attends St.* Joseph's Church in the Southgate area of Colorado Springs.
Citizens can contact Rinehart at phone number 290-0384 or at her email address LCR59@aol.com.

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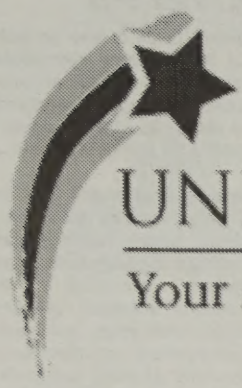

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ON BEING OLD AND BEING OUT

-Anonymous-

In the 1994 Australian film "The Sum of Us," Russell Crowe plays the part of an out young gay man searching for love. In a powerful scene hjs not-out lesbian grandmother and her devoted partner of forty years are being separated because they have gotten too infirm to care for themselves without help and their families are stepping in to care for their own. Although loving and committed to one another, it was apparent that these women had compartmentalized their gay relationship keeping it hidden from the outside world.

"Compartmentalized" is the term for it, too, according to Amber Hollibaugh, Director of Education, Communication and Advocacy for the national office of SAGE – Senior Action in a Gay Environment. "We work with a range of ages," she said. "We find that the generation that preceded the Baby Boomers, and even some of the older Boomers, found it very comfortable to be gay with their gay friends but to affect a straight façade everywhere else. It was how you survived in those days."

Confirming Hollibaugh's statements were the words of a pre-Baby Boomer who attended last fall's Gay & Gray in the West town hall. "I'm not as out as you might think," he said. "I'm pretty active in the community and you've seen me around but there are a lot of parts of my life where no one knows I'm gay. You can quote me, but don't use my name." And there are a lot of LGBT people who face the future as senior citizens having achieved varying degrees of "outness" and who may now be faced with losing even that one social compartment where they could safely be themselves.

"Think about it," said Hollibaugh. "You're 75 years old and in a retirement home. You can't invite your gay friends to visit because of your ingrained self-protection mechanisms. You're certainly not prepared to tell the nursing home staff that you're gay."

"And if you do tell them, what then? What do you do if people won't bathe you because you're a "faggot?" Or if the staff won't deliver a tray of food and you have to go get it but can't? If no one will talk to you because your homosexuality frightens or repulses them, what do you do?" she asked.

Things are somewhat better for the Baby Boom generation who, as a group, are more out than previous generations, according to Hollibaugh. But as much as they are a major part of the largest demographic in the country Gaybie Boomers also face an uncertain future as they approach retirement age.

"We're scared to death about nursing homes," said Evelyn Green, a totally out Gaybie Boomer and local psychotherapist and activist. "We do everything we can to prevent becoming indigent so that neither of us has to go to a nursing home." Her partner, Paula Barnak, an educator, is from the previous generation and facing retirement in the near future. "We haven't seen any old age facilities that seem welcoming and while neither of us is near needing one we sure want to avoid getting there." Of course, as Evelyn pointed out, her situation is compounded by the fact that besides being transgenerational her partnership is interracial as well. "A lot of people are just not ready to deal with us." She said.

Barbara Jones, a member of the Gay & Gray in the West steering committee and founder of Colorado Organizations Responding to AIDS (CORA) sounds a different note. "Whether you're partly out or fully out if you have a partner and one dies before the other you don't have any legal rights per se. Unless you take care to have wills, joint property, trusts and whatever, tragic things can happen." "When someone's alone it becomes difficult to maintain one's independence and the nursing home community is generally not prepared to deal with us as gay people."

"So degrees of being out can and do play a role in how LGBT individuals respond to getting old and seeking assistance," said Holibaugh. "Coming out is a personal thing as much as it is a public action and even a political statement. We all have to do it in our own time. And it's incumbent on all of us to work together to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all members of our community and to help everyone of all generations to find resources and meet their individual needs."

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ON BEING GAY AND POLITICAL

-Donald Cavanaugh-

There is no way to be gay and not be political. The very fact of an individual's existence as a non-heterosexual is, whether one wants it or not, a political situation. This is a fact whether one is a vocal activist or buried so deeply in the closet that death will probably happen before self-revelation will occur.

We are politicized for our existences because politics are so heavily informed by the prevailing Christian religious tradition that permeates our laws and social thinking and assumes that we homosexual people are making an evil and/or sinful choice to commit a sin rather than making a legitimate and morally neutral decision to live life in a way that makes us most comfortable and whole.

Because of this thinking, those of us who do not conform to the Christian-defined "norm" are de facto second class citizens. The 14th amendment of the Constitution says everyone is equal, but law makers default to their prejudices rather than to justice and their prejudices say that homosexual acts are sinful; people who commit homosexual acts are evil sinners; and because we (homosexuals) choose to live outside the law of the land, we're not entitled to have equality under the laws of the land.

I sincerely doubt that many politicians would make that statement, however, because they are not thinking about their behavior, they are just behaving "like everyone else."

So, what does this mean? It means that we must be ever vigilant and ever sensitive to the denial of our rights and must do everything in our power to overcome this situation and obtain equality. How?

Well, those of us who can come out must do so as visibly as we possibly can. This will run a gamut of complete outness to selective outness based on families, friends, job situations, etc. Those of us who are unable to come out must still become political and we must all VOTE!

And we must take an active part in the rest of society and government. We must read the papers every day and write letters to the editors. If they don't hear from us and/or our allies, they don't know how large a portion of their audience we constitute. If we write in response to their coverage – complimenting positive portrayals, challenging negative stereotype, we can help to change their perceptions which, in turn, can help change the perceptions of the majority readership.

Similarly, we must make local, state and federal law makers aware that we are here, too. It is amazing how many legislators in Colorado, particularly in remote cities and towns, think there are "no homosexuals in my district." Whose fault is that? Join the party; run for district party offices (it's boring work but better that we do it than our enemies); come out and help us all become known.

Finally, if you're not out of your closet for whatever reason (and I can enumerate most of them from personal experience), pretend you're a straight ally. Use the third person instead of the first when writing or talking about equality for all citizens. Everyone is entitled to civil outrage when elected officials legislate against a class of citizens or fail to include members of that class in favorable legislation either through ignorance or malice.

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ALLIED ORGANIZATION MAKES ENDORSEMENTS

-Annie O.-

The Colorado Springs Mayoral and Council Candidate elections are well underway. The field is more crowded than we have seen in years promising choices for the GLBT community and friends. However, with many candidates comes the need to look carefully at positions before casting a vote. Community groups across Colorado Springs have been making candidate endorsements since January.

For example, the Voters Network sent a 17 question survey to candidates for the upcoming election. The Voters Network of the Pikes Peak Region was formed in 1997 to promote economic, environmental and social justice in our local communities. Issues they have worked on in the past include smart growth, open space preservation, water and energy conservation as well as sustainable indicators, gun safety, funding for the city's infrastructure backlog, improving local transit and punishing hate crimes. Like other C-4 membership organizations or business associations they endorse candidates to their members and offer support directly to candidates that they endorse. Responses to the questionnaires are used in their formal endorsement process along with personal interviews and listening to the candidates responses to questions as they are out campaigning.

The Candidate Questionnaire is a common tool that organizations use to identify candidates that they wish to support during the election season as well as to hold those elected, accountable for their decisions. The Voters Network questions reflect the broad mission of the organization and help their members understand the need for a broad set of issue responses to be used to help select leaders for our community.

Concerns about our community, within the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community are no different than other citizens and include concerns for transportation and affordable housing to civil rights and public health care. Voting is critical in this year's election. Attending forums, as advertised and asking your friends who they are voting for is a great way to begin to engage in the decisions that affect our lives.

The following endorsements have been given by various groups in Colorado Springs.

	The Voters Network
Mayor:	Ted Eastburn
District 1:	Tim Oliver
District 3:	Lauren Arnest
At-Large:	Recommend voting for ONLY 3
At-Large	Richard Skorman
At-Large	Richard Stettler
At-Large	Mark Entrekin

	Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce:
Mayor:	No endorsement
District 1	Scott Hente
District 3	Jerry Heimlicher
At-Large	Richard Skorman
At-Large	Randy Purvis
At-Large	Larry Small
At-Large	Darryl Glenn

	Housing and Building Association
Mayor:	No endorsement
District 1:	Scott Hente
District 3:	Jerry Heimlicher
At-Large:	Richard Skorman
At-Large:	Randy Purvis
At-Large:	Larry Small
At-Large:	Janak Joshi
At-Large:	Darryl Glen

	Pikes Peak Association of Realtors
Mayor:	No endorsement
District 1:	Scott Hente
District 3:	Jerry Heimlicher
At-Large:	Janak Joshi
At-Large:	Greg Hollister
At-Large:	Craig Cox
At-Large:	Randy Purvis?

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The Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center does not endorse any candidates for any political office.

Frank's
HANDY DANDY GUIDE TO HAPPY VOTING

Each election for the last eleven year's I have circulated a voter guide. For the upcoming City Council Race I have done more extensive study of the candidates than ever before. Taken into consideration have been candidate's stands on issues acquired through surveys, personal discussions and through listening to them at forums. Having reduced my candidates to those acceptable and not acceptable, I then looked to credibility. A big player in my decision has also been electability. Because of the almost complete change in Council, we are particularly challenged. If we are to have an impact as the LGBT community, we must consider voting in a block—voting only for those who can be elected who will best represent our interest once elected.

The mayor's race is of particular strategic importance:

- There are two AGAINST our community (Rivera/Clark) and two SUPPORT issues of importance to us (Eastburn/Null.)
- Polling by professionals paid for by our community and other indicators show **Ted Eastburn is the only one of the two who can beat both Rivera and Clark.** Ted is also an excellent candidate.
- If Eastburn is to win, we must vote as a block for him.
- Polls indicate that Null cannot win even if we block vote for him. His base vote is too small , his negatives are too large, his campaign has not caught on and has not raised enough money to be viable.

Mayor **Ted Eastburn**

District 1 **Tim Oliver** **District 3** **Lauren Arnest**

At-Large: **Richard Skorman** **Mark Entrekin** **Richard Stettler**

- In the at-large race you can vote for up to four. **I am urging you to vote for only three.** There is no other candidate whom we should support. To vote for a fourth increases the chance one of top choices will be knocked off by the person at whom we throw a vote.
- **We must win five of the six seats above to win a forward thinking council.** That is a tall order. Emotional voting should be avoided. Because of the large number of candidates, a small number of votes are likely to make the difference.
- **Vote smart. Vote the above slate if we are to achieve a victory for Colorado Springs and elect a Council open to all of its citizens.**
- **Do Vote for the Trails and Open Space Extension.**

This ad is paid for by Frank Whitworth and is not meant to reflect any views but his own.

LOCAL GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER RESOURCES

RESOURCES/SERVICES AND SUPPORT

EL PASO COUNTY DEPT. OF HEALTH
578-3199

INSIDE/OUT YOUTH SERVICES (Ages 13-22)
328-1056

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays)
575-8658

PIKES PEAK GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER
471-4429 (Information, Resources, Referrals, Citywide Advocacy)

COMMUNITY VISION	471-4429
DISCRIMINATION DEFENSE	471-4429
LUNCHBREAK	471-4429
GLBT 55+	475-2523
FUSION! (Men's Activities)	471-4429
MEN4MEN	471-4429
LESBIAN SINGLES	471-4429
NETCORE	471-4429
PRIDEFEST	471-4429
PRIDE CENTER	471-4429
20'S SOMETHING	471-4429

SCIRTS (Southern Colorado IntraRegional Transgender Society)
591-5860

SOUTHERN COLORADO AIDS PROJECT
578-9092

T-GENTS (Female to Male)
573-6504

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS

BACCHUS WINE TASTING
576-3465

SUMMIT MASTERS (Levi/Leather)
540-0332

UNITED COURT OF THE PIKES PEAK EMPIRE
685-5284

LGBT BARS

BIJOU BAR & GRILL
473-5718

HIDE & SEEK BAR
634-9303

LGBT AFFIRMING CHURCHES

ALL SOULS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
633-7717

COMMUNITY FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING (Religious Science)
596-6894

DIGNITY (LGBT Catholics and Friends)
685-5343

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
635-3549

HIGH PLAINS CHURCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
260-1080

LUTHERANS CONCERNED
574-6051

PIKES PEAK METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
634-3771

1st Congo

PUEBLO

OUTFRONT YOUTH SUPPORT
(719) 583-4311

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
(719) 542-6359

PUEBLO METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
(719) 543-6460

SOUTHERN COLORADO AIDS PROJECT
(719) 561-2616

SOUTHERN COLORADO EQUALITY ALLIANCE
(719) 564-4004

If there are any needed corrections or additions, please call 471-4429.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

-Samantha LeBlanc-

Queer Book Picks of the Month

As Meat Loves Salt - For March
By Maua McCann

An English novel about a 17th Century soldier discovering his love for men. A woman writing about a gay man.

Venus Envy - For April
By Rita Mae Brown

Frazier Armstrong was given just days to live. She was inspired to write letters to her friends and family telling them the truth; She's gay. There's only one problem. The letters are sent, but she's not really dying!

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OPPORTUNITIES

Pass it On: Free Creative Residencies

The Hermitage, a queer intentional community, announces it's free summer residence for 2003. The emphasis this summer is on creativity in the arts and crafts. Gay male artists and craftsman are invited to apply. For more information, please contact: Johannes Zinzendorf at BroJoh@yahoo.com or visit www.ic.org/thehermitage.

Pass it On: Free Lesbian & Bisexual Women's Health Fest (Denver)

Sponsored by the The (Denver) Center's Lesbian Cancer Support Services, Planned Parenthood and Denver Health, free mammograms, breast exams, pap smears and health care info/referrals are available to women 35+ with lower income. Call to find out how to get involved by March 18th! (303) 380-2781

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Buy, sell, rent, advertise a service, meet someone new for love or friendship. Rates are posted in the front of Community Vision. Deadline for receipt of ad copy is April 30, 2003. Personal ads should not contain obscenities or graphically explicit sexual references. Email copy to ppglcc@ppglcc.org or mail to PPGLCC, PO Box 607, Colorado Springs, CO 80901. Please include credit card information for payment (VISA or M/C number, expiration date and name on card) or mail a check made out to PPGLCC. For further information email or call 471-4429.

LIBRARY

-PPGLCC-

Help the Pride Center rebuild its library! Simply donate your old glbt themed books to the Center during regular operating hours. Together, we can rebuild and replace what was lost and provide a valuable resource for our community. We are also looking for bookcases or someone who is willing to donate time and/or materials to build them. We also need a generous soul to pay for the cleaning of the books that survived the fire since they smell like smoke. For more information, please contact the Pride Center at 471-4429.

SAVE THE DATE-PRIDE 2003 "BOUND BY PRIDE" - JUNE 29, 2003

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